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## Description

Method and feed device for carrying out the advancing movement of at least one tool rest rotating about a rotationally symmetric component

The machining of large machine shafts, for example turbine and generator shafts, requires special lathes for which large machine sheds are necessary. For working on site, for example for machining the bearing seats during repair by lathe-turning, grinding or polishing, it would be desirable to carry out machining by means of nonstationary machines which can be placed onto the stationary shaft, so that extensive and costly demounting and transport work could be avoided. Even possible damage to the shaft as a result of transport to the place of use itself and also during subsequent installation work often make additional work on the shaft seem desirable.

For uses on smaller shafts, lathes are already known which are placed onto a shaft and rotate about the shaft. The problem of such machining appliances is the generation of advancing movements for the machining tools in a longitudinal direction and transversely to the shaft. Separate drives which corotate with the lathe have to be used for generating the advancing movements. Apart from the large mass which has to be moved and supported in this way, thus causing vibrations which lead to machining inaccuracies, such an arrangement has further disadvantages. The energy for these drives has to be transmitted to the rotating drives by means of slip rings. The working machine must therefore have an unsplit design, since the slip rings would otherwise also have to be split,

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but power transmission via split slip rings would present considerable technical difficulties.

5 It is desirable, by contrast, for a working machine to be designed to be splittable in order to be placed onto a correspondingly large shaft and for the working machine to be assembled for a machining operation on the shaft, though without requiring power transmission via split slip rings. Moreover, the rotating mass is to  
10 be kept as small as possible.

JP-A 62287907 has already disclosed a feed device, in which the drives for the advancing movements are likewise arranged at a fixed location. The advancing  
15 movements take place via the relative movement of a further transmission mechanism cooperating with the respective leadscrew, in addition to the main transmission mechanism. These transmission mechanisms are connected to the main transmission mechanism in  
20 each case via a planetary gear, the planet wheels of which can be additionally driven or braked by rest motors and consequently bring about the relative movement. The solution has the disadvantage that planetary gears of this type are highly cost-intensive,  
25 and that, particularly in the case of run-on and run-off ramps, internal forces occur which lead to unintended relative movements of the main drive and advancing drive and consequently to unintended adjustments of the machining tools.

30 The object on which the invention is based is to specify a method for carrying out the advancing movement and a feed device for a working machine with a rotating tool rest, said method and said feed device  
35 allowing machining (lathe-turning, milling, orbital grinding) in NC quality.

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The object is achieved, according to the invention, by means of the features in the characterizing part of claims 1 and 3 in conjunction with the features in the preamble. Expedient refinements of the invention are  
5 contained in the subclaims.

The advancing movement of the tools is generated in that transmission mechanisms are provided, which drive the leadscrews of the tool rests and are themselves  
10 driven at a different speed from the working machine which rotates as a whole; the relative speed between the two then takes effect.

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If the relative speed is zero, no advancing movement takes place.

5 Preferably a plurality of large gear rings are provided  
as transmission mechanisms between the drive motors and  
the working machine, one of these gear rings being  
provided for rotating the entire working machine and  
consequently also determining the cutting speed of a  
10 tool with respect to the shaft, while the other gear  
ring or gear rings serves or serve for the advancing  
movements of the tools.

When all the gear rings rotate at the same speed, no  
movement takes place on the cross slide and  
15 longitudinal slide rests. Only when the gear rings for  
the rests for longitudinal and cross movement run more  
quickly or more slowly than the gear ring driving the  
working machine is there a rotation of the leadscrews  
and therefore an advance of the rests in relation to  
20 the working machine on account of the relation movement  
between the gear rings. It is therefore necessary to  
drive the rest motors, which act on the individual gear  
rings, more quickly or more slowly than the gear ring  
for the working machine when an advancing movement is  
25 to be brought about.

The gear rings are preferably provided with the same  
number of external teeth. The pinions driving the gear  
rings must then have identical diameters. The gear  
30 rings for driving the leadscrews are toothed internally  
and drive the leadscrews of the rests via pinions which  
are mounted in a rotationally movable manner in the  
rotating working machine.

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There is a drive motor in each case for driving the gear ring of the rotating working machine and that of the leadscrews. In order to drive all the gear rings synchronously with the main motor in an operating phase in which no advancing movement is to take place, according to the invention a mechanical coupling of the main motor to the rest motors is provided, for example via toothed belts, via which the housings of the rest motors are taken up by the main motor, specifically, in the case described here, at the same rotational speed, the shafts of the rest motors, which are not themselves driven in this operating phase, also being taken up at the same rotational speed and driving the gear rings for the leadscrew movement, so that there is no movement of these gear rings in relation to the gear ring which brings about the rotational movement of the entire working machine. In order at the same time to rule out the effect of internal forces in the working machine, each rest motor is expediently braked in this operating phase.

All the drive motors are arranged at a fixed location, for example directly on the stationary shaft or on a block standing next to the shaft. In this case, the tools controlled by the leadscrews rotate together with the working machine, without executing a relative movement perpendicularly to or along the shaft, as long as the rotational speed of the motor shaft of one or both rest motors is not changed in relation to the rotational speed of the driving main motor. Only when, as a result of the switched-on specific drive movement of one of the rest motors, one leadscrew or another rotates more quickly or more slowly than the working machine about the shaft to be machined is there a movement of the tool or tools in relation to the shaft. The supply of power to the rest motors, the housings of which are fixed in place, but rotate at the same rotational speed as the main motor, takes place via slip rings,

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the voltage supplied via the slip rings determining the rotational speed of the respective rest motor and consequently the advancing speed.

- 5 Instead of lathe tools, other tools may also be used for machining the shaft surface, such as, for example, grinding wheels, milling cutters or polishing devices.

10 It was assumed above that all the gear rings and the pinions driving these have the same diameters and numbers of teeth and the main motor and the housings of the rest motors have the same rotational speed. This is certainly the most practical solution. It is also possible, however, to use gear rings with different  
15 diameters, when the pinions likewise have different diameters and/or the rotational speeds of the motors are not identical. It is important merely that, in the operating state in which no advancing movement is to take place, all the gear rings are driven at the same  
20 rotational speed.

The solution has the advantage that the working machine can have a split design. All the drive motors are to be arranged at a fixed location, and the rest motors do  
25 not corotate with the entire machine, but only independently. The rotating mass is therefore also kept small. The power transmission to the rest motors can be carried out via unsplit slip rings. A simple and accurate control of the tool rests becomes possible,  
30 even in the case of run-on and run-off ramps and during curve machining of the component to be machined, that is to say surfaces, diameters and curves can be machined, programmed, by means of the NC technique, as in conventional machine tools.

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The invention will be explained in more detail below with reference to an exemplary embodiment. In the accompanying drawings:

- fig. 1 shows a diagrammatically illustrated side view  
5 of a working machine according to the invention, and  
fig. 2 shows a top view of the driving side of the working machine according to fig. 1.

- 10 For the sake of clarity, the exemplary embodiment is restricted to an arrangement with two gear rings, that is to say one for driving the working machine as such and one for driving a leadscrew for the longitudinal  
15 advancing movement of a rest. In the practical version, at least one third gear ring will be provided for carrying out a second advancing movement of the tool.

- The working machine is placed onto a shaft 1 to be machined and is supported in a rotationally movable  
20 manner on the latter by means of bearings 2. It consists of a frame support 3, in which is mounted a tool rest 4 which can execute an advancing movement in the longitudinal direction of the shaft 1 via a leadscrew 5. The frame support 3 is designed on the  
25 driving side as an externally toothed gear ring 6. Via a pinion 7 on the motor shaft of a main motor 8, the gear ring 6, and therefore also the tool rest 4, is driven, so that the latter rotates together with its tool 9, for example a lathe tool, about the shaft 1.  
30 The main motor 8 is in this case fastened on the shaft 1 via a support 10.

- The leadscrew 5 is rotatable in the frame support 3 via a pinion 11 and moves the tool rest 4 back and forth  
35 via a worm drive. The pinion 11 is itself

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driven by an internally an externally toothed gear ring 12 which is mounted rotatably on the frame support 3. As long as the gear rings 6 and 12 do not execute any movement in relation to one another, the tool rest 4 remains in its position, that is to say no advance is brought about. For this purpose, assuming the same number of teeth of the pinion 17 and pinion 7 and of the gear rings 6 and 12, the pinion 17 must be driven at the same rotational speed as the pinion 7. This is carried out by the housing of a rest motor 13, on the motor shaft of which the pinion 17 is arranged, being mounted rotatably and rotating with the same rotational speed as the main motor 8 or the pinion 7, said housing taking up the pinion 11 at this rotational speed. In order to bring about rotation and at the same time ensure full synchronism of the two drive movements, the main motor 8 is coupled mechanically to the housing of the rest motor 13 via a toothed belt 14.

In order, in an operating phase without an advancing movement, not to allow any rotational speed of its pinion 17 which deviates from the rotational speed of the housing of the rest motor 13, the rest motor 13 is expediently braked, so that the housing and the motor shaft of the rest motor 13 are coupled. In contrast to this, for an advancing movement of the tool rest 4, the brake is released and the rest motor 13 is additionally driven itself. This takes place via the supply of power to slip rings 15 on the rest motor 13. When the rest motor 13 is put into operation, the pinion 17, and consequently the gear ring 12, is additionally driven in one direction or braked in the other direction beyond the rotation which is imparted by the housing of the rest motor 13. A movement of the gear rings 6 and 12 in relation to one another thus takes place, these gear rings bringing about a rotation of the leadscrew 5 and consequently an advance of the tool rest 4.



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Since the rest motor 13, together with its slip ring set, is arranged at a fixed location, the frame support 3 can have a split design, so that it can be placed onto the shaft 1 anywhere on the latter.

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As can easily be seen, a further advancing movement radially relative to the shaft 1 can be achieved by means of a second rest motor and a third gear ring and also a conventional deflection mechanism on the tool rest. If further rest drives are also necessary, these  
10 can be implemented in the same way.